

MEDIA RELEASE

10 October 2006

YOUNG PEOPLE ENCOURAGED TO GET TO KNOW THE BUSINESS OF MUSIC

Statement by Lois Ford, Director of Disability ACT

A series of workshops are being held for young people with disabilities – and their friends – who would like to learn more about the music industry.

Acclaimed Canberra singer, songwriter and recording artist, T J James will present “Workshopping the Business of Music” an initiative sponsored by Disability ACT. The workshops aim to inspire young people to get to know the music industry.

It will provide opportunities for young people to increase their knowledge of the industry, share experiences and explore the wide range of career options that the music industry provides. T J is passionate about providing opportunities for young people with a disability – and their friends – to get involved in the music industry.

T J was born with Cerebral Palsy, but believes ‘anything’s possible’. He works closely with organisations in Australia and overseas that assist people with Cerebral Palsy. He is working in partnership with Disability ACT to promote and encourage the involvement of young people with disabilities in the creative arts.

There will be three evening workshops held at Nature Conservation House, corner of Benjamin Way and Emu Bank, Belconnen, commencing on Thursday, 19 October 2006, between 6.00pm – 8-00pm.

Topics covered will include the business side of the music industry, including avoiding the pitfalls, organising live performances, including forming and developing a band, contracts and the Legal Agreements young musicians may encounter, song writing and career opportunities, including as singers, musicians, managers, stage managers, publicists, lighting and sound.

T J will also present the careers of inspirational artists with disabilities such as Steve Wonder, and Rick Allen of Def Leppard.

Young people with, or without a disability, who would like to join T J in the workshops and meet other young people who are also interested in the business of music, should contact Lisa Tanconi on (T) 6205 1928 or (E) lisa.tanconi@act.gov.au

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